CS 71
.U55

1904

Fold out

fold

out

Publication Series No. 2, October, 1904.

CC 71
.U55
1904

THE Underhill and Townsend Families

A HISTORICAL SKETCH

BY

HON. ISAAC TOWNSEND SMITH.

Delivered at the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Underhill Society of America, held at Friends' Meeting House, East 20th Street, (Gramercy Park), Manhattan, N. Y. city, on Saturday, May 18th, 1901. being the 271st Anniversary of the arrival of Captain John Underhill in the ship "Mary & John," in Boston Harbor.

PUBLISHED BY THE

UNDERHILL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

400 SOUTH THIRD STREET, BROOKLYN, N. Y. CITY

PRICE 10 CENTS PER COPY

The bay of Massachusetts is a noble inlet of the sea. In heroic incident from an early period of our history it presents a brilliant and romantic chapter, unequalled in the annals of any other section of the Atlantic seaboard, and although a small part of the United States, it is a large and impressive factor in the history of the country. It was this magnificent expanse of water that gave the name of *Bay State* to Massachusetts.

Sheltered by the promontory of Cape Cod the first Pilgrim bark, the Mayflower, after a tempestuous voyage, found anchorage and shelter in a fair haven they called Provincetown, from whence, after repair to their shattered vessel, and exploring and examining the coast, they sailed across the bay, made a landing and settlement, which they called Plymouth.

On the northern side of the bay, at Cape Ann, stands a lighthouse, which, with another opposite at Cape Cod, like mighty gate-posts, Pillars of Hercules, are conspicuous

4 R3

beacons by day and guides by night to ships outward bound, or inward to ports within the bay.

Fringed along its shores since the advent of the Mayflower, there have risen cities and towns of more or less interest and importance. Of such is Salem, which became eminent as a literary center and for its commercial activity during many years of its early history; and Gloucester, long famous for its fisheries; and Marblehead, with its secure harbor, into which the frigate Constitution ran, when in the War of 1812 she was chased by the British fleet; and Hingham, which was noted in its early days for its manufacture of buckets and brooms; and Lynn, celebrated for its shoes—"Everybody in Lynn," it was said, "made shoes except the Minister," "he made boots," went one better. But if you saw those places today, with their beautiful, costly residences, you would hardly suppose that "buckets and brooms" and "boots and shoes" had done it; and Newport and Swampscott, Nahant and Beverly, all have been engaged in commerce, and were also, with the other towns named, nurseries for seamen in the War of the Revolution and that of 1812.

And there, too, is Marshfield, memorable as the summer home in the lifetime, and now the resting place of the honored remains of Daniel Webster; and Plymouth, the settlement and home of the first company of one hundred Pilgrims, of whom one half died from their hardships and sufferings the first year, the most of them in one-fourth of that time, and when the ship went back in May, not one of the little band returned in her, they devotedly stood by each other. No man can read of the heroic devotion of this little band without supreme emotion. Rufus Choate, after visiting their burial-place, thus describes it:—

"It was on a bank somewhat elevated near and looking upon the waves, a symbol of what life had been to them, ascending inland and above the rock, symbol also of the 'Rock of Ages,' on which the dying had rested in the final hour; there were buried, the first Governor, and Rose, the wife of Miles Standish. 'You will go to them,' said Robinson, 'they cannot come to you.'"

And at the head of the bay is the City of Boston. The golden dome of the State House, the stately edifices, steeples, pinnacles, parks and Common, proclaim it to be the capital of the grand old Bay State, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, built on three hills, Beacon Hill, Fort Hill and Copp's Hill, where I was born on March the twelfth, 1813. Opposite north, across Charles river, are Charlestown and the Navy Yard, and Bunker Hill with its monumental shaft pointing heavenward. The topography of the shore of the Bay is aptly described in the folk-lore of my boyhood days:

Gift
The Society
15 M 07

"Marblehead is a rocky place,
Cape Cod is all sandy.
Boston is a handsome place,
Yankee doodle dandy."

Very different from this picture of comfort and wealth of today, was the aspect to the weather-beaten Pilgrims, as they entered the bay on that bleak December day in 1620. There was neither lighthouse, beacon nor buoy to mark the channel and indicate the course to steer; it is a perilous undertaking even now, with a pilot and light ship, and one of their vessels, following the "Mayflower," was wrecked off Cape Cod. The vessel grounded on a sandy shoal, from which she could not be floated. The sand speedily washed about and over her. The passengers and crew, with cargo, were taken by boats to Provincetown, where the "Mayflower" had found shelter. This imprisoned ship, thus interred under the sand, hermetically sealed for about two hundred and fifty years, was, by the turn of the current of the ocean returning to its original channel, released from its long confinement. She came up sound as a nut to the astonishment of the people of Provincetown. After some battling with the billows, they succeeded in securing the hull entire by taking it apart, and bringing it to land. This vessel, a relic of the past, excited great interest. It was taken to Boston, put together for exhibition and set up on the Common, where I saw it, went aboard, and walked the deck where the old pilgrims had walked, and sat in the cabin of a vessel that had been, so to say, a consort of the "Mayflower."

Among those who came to Boston in the Pilgrim ships with Governor Winthrop was Captain John Underhill, on April 7th, 1630, under an agreement to train the militia of this new settlement and make plans for public protection. Captain John Underhill was to this Colony what Miles Standish was to Plymouth. Boston gave Captain John Underhill a pension for his services against the Indians in 1643. He left Boston and came to New York under convictions of duty.

Winthrop brought grave charges against Roger Williams. This Underhill could not brook, and was so incensed that, with others, he remonstrated with the authorities, and withVane, a Puritan of the Puritans, warmly supported Mrs. Anne Hutchinson and her brother-in-law, the pious John Wheelwright, who arrived in 1634 from Atford, near Boston, England. Public sentiment is now emphatically with Captain Underhill, Roger Williams and Mrs. Anne Hutchinson, in their views of freedom of thought and speech on matters pertaining to church and state affairs. Whittier writes of Captain Underhill:—

He coveted not his neighbor's lands,
From the holding of bribes he shook his hands,
And through the camp of the heathen ran,
A wholesome fear of the valiant man.
He cheered his heart as he rode along,
With the sacred Scripture and holy song.

In my investigation of the genealogical record of the Underhill Family I find much to interest me.

Captain John Underhill, by his second wife, had five children, one of whom, a daughter Deborah, married Henry Townsend. My mother was a Townsend, by the branch of the family that settled in Massachusetts. All the American Townsends are allied, being descended from one stock, that of Admiral Roger Townsend, who went with his own ship into the fight aganist the Spanish Armada, and was knighted on board his ship for gallant and distinguished services.

I find the records still further interesting—that another daughter of Captain Underhill, Elizabeth, married Isaac Smith, of Hempstead, L. I., which brings my entire name, Isaac Townsend Smith into this family record. My branch of Smiths, also from England, settled in New Hampshire, "an excellent place to be born," Mr Webster, having been himself born there, said, " provided you leave it soon enough." My father left New Hampshire early in life, went to Boston, where he married Eliza Townsend. He became a prosperous merchant and left a good estate, and reared a family of six children, of whom I am the only survivor. I feel therefore, without studying up the pedigree further, that I am unmistakably in the Underhill Family, as a cousin certainly, although perhaps a distant one. I at one time invited a young Chinaman, a literary man, to dine with me; the following day he came promptly and brought with him another of his countrymen. They looked so much alike, with their almond shaped eyes, long black queues, yellow skin, and shoes shaped like a Chinese junk, that I said, "Your brother?" "No," said he; then I asked "Your cousin?" "Yes, yes," he replied, with a merry twinkle of the eye, "sixty-seventh." Within a radius of sixty seven, I may then venture to believe that I have a name and a place within the circle of the Underhill Family.

The Underhills are an old English family and were of standing and character long before heraldry was established in England. Heraldry was originated by Henry V. in 1419. But early as 1274 the name of William Underhill appears in a commission appointed by Henry III., and continued by Edward I., to inquire into the landed possessions of the kingdom. In 1500 we find Robert Winter conveying property in Huningham to John Underhill, on the river Trams, four miles from Kennelworth in Warwickshire. This John Underhill (son of Thomas) married Anne,

daughter of Robert Winter, an heiress, whose son Edward was grandfather to John Underhill of America. He went to London and was made a gentleman pensioner.

During the reign of Elizabeth the Underhills were in great prosperity and employed in confidential offices; they became connected with some of the best families, and attained the honors of knighthood. Sir Edward Underhill was knighted in January, 1612. He was High Sheriff 1637-38.

Many literary productions have emanated from the Underhill Family. Wm. Underhill was Secretary and one of Queen Mary's Board of Gentlemen Pensioners, who were chosen from the flower of England's nobility and gentry, and during the whole of Elizabeth's reign to serve in its ranks was a distinction worthy the ambition of young men of the highest families and most brilliant prospects. And all the way down the pages of history I find that Underhills filled the offices of Barons, Bishops, Queen's Chaplains, Magistrates, Secretaries, and other positions of honor and confidence.

Sir John Underhill was the friend and companion of Lord Leicester, and he was sent from Holland by Lord Leicester to Queen Elizabeth with confidential communications, with which it was said a romance was connected.

THE TOWNSEND FAMILY

The family of the Townsends being by intermarriage connected with the Underhills, the historic position of the Townsend Family is of interest in that connection, and to make the history complete.

Upon the conquest of England by the Normans in 1066, the lands were parcelled out by William to the military leaders by whose help he was victorious. A very large estate on the northwesterly part of the county of Norfolk, in the neighborhood now called Raynham (River Home), became the possession or one de Haville. In 1100 a gentleman by the name of Ludocishs (Louis) came from Normandy in the train of Henry I., and having married the daughter and only child of de Haville, settled upon his wife's paternal acres and adopted the family name of Townsend. These lands passed by inheritance to Townsend's children, and the family held them not only entire but largely augmented after the lapse of eight hundred years from the time they were granted to de Haville.

In 1183 the head of the house was a Baron of the Court of Common Pleas. In 1588, when the Spanish Armada threatened to annihilate Protestantism and the power of Elizabeth at one blow, Roger Townsend, the owner of the

estates, was a celebrated sailor, and with Drake and Hawkins brought his own ships into the service of his sovereign. He was knighted for his gallantry by the British Admiral Lord Howard.

In 1603 Robert Townsend was Knighted by King James I.

The Townsends have been one of the most distinguished families in English history, and have numbered in their ranks Secretaries of State, Lord Chief Justices, Members of Parliament, Lord Lieutenants of Ireland, and Peers of the Realm, and have been distinguished in the Army as Generals and Governors of forts; in the Navy, besides the first naval hero Roger Townsend of Armada fame, there have been Admirals of the White and Admirals of the Blue. George Townsend took to a maritime life and distinguished himself in several actions during the war with France, 1724. As Commodore of a squadron of His Majesty's ships in the West Indies, he took a large fleet of French merchant ships; in 1765 he was appointed Admiral of the White and in 1766 Admiral of the Blue.

Augustus Townsend made several voyages to China as Supercargo and Captain in the service of the East India Company, in which situation he died at Batavia in the Island of Java about 1766. In the like manner, as Supercargo of a ship in those far off seas I went into Batavia in 1835, and like my kinsman Augustus Townsend was taken sick of fever and went to the hospital, but more fortunate than my predecessor and cousin, I recovered sufficiently to to be taken aboard my ship, then ready for sea, and on the voyage home regained my health.

John Townsend was elected to Parliament, and went with the Earl of Essex to the invasion of the Spanish possessions; in 1606 was knighted. He became a leading member of Parliament.

The next Sir Roger Townsend was created a Baronet by King James I., in 1617. In the third year of the reign of Charles I. he was elected one of the Knights of the County of Norfolk and Sheriff of the County. He built a grand stately mansion at Raynham, the family seat. He died in 1630, age 41.

Sir Horatio Townsend as soon as he was of age took part in public affairs, and attained great influence from his wisdom and sagacity. Lord Clarendon said that he used his noble wealth and credit in furnishing arms and ammunition for the King's service. Lord Willoughby and others of influence were drawn to his side, and King James II., in appreciation of his services, advanced him to the dignity of a Peer of the Realm by the title of Baron of Lynn in 1661, and shortly after constituted him Lord Lieutenant of the County of Norwich, and further advanced him to the title of

Viscount Townsend of Raynham. On his death in 1687, his son, second Viscount Charles Townsend, took his seat in the House of Peers, December 3rd, 1697, and in 1702 was constituted Lord Lieutenant of the City and County of Norfolk; and in 1709 with the Duke of Marlboro was appointed plenipotentiary to treat for peace with France. In 1714 he was sworn as principal Secretary of State; in 1716 he resigned the Seal of Secretary of State, and in 1718 was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, which he declined. In 1720 he was appointed President of the Council, and the same year one of the Lord Justices, and again made principal Secretary of State, and in 1723 one of the Lord Justices of Great Britain, and in 1724 appointed Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter and was installed at Windsor. He attended the King at Hanover, and peace being settled in Europe, he retired to his family seat at Norfolk.

Charles Townshend* married Caroline, sister of the Duke of Argyle. He was one of the most distinguished statesmen and orators England ever produced. Edmund Burke said of him—"He was the idol of the House of Commons and the ornament of every social circle which he honored with his presence." It was said that he could carry the house when Burke failed to move it.

In direct descent from this Charles Townshend and Caroline of Argyle his wife is the present Marquis Townshend, who is first cousin to Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Fife, the daughter of King Edward VII.

The Marquisate of Townshend is one of the most ancient as well as the most distinguished in England.

The first marquisate was that of Westminister, created about the year 1500 That of Lansdowne was the second, and that of Townshend the third, so that the present Peer takes precedence of all the others except the two mentioned.

In connection with our own history, it is a curious fact that the Charles Townshend who as Chancellor of the Exchequer advocated the passage of the stamp act and the tax on tea, was on my side the tory ancestor of my children, while on the side of their mother (Elizabeth Palmer Putnam) their great grandfather was the patriot Major Joseph Pierce Palmer who, as one of the leaders of the famous Boston Tea Party, threw the shipload of taxed tea overboard in Boston Harbor December 16, 1773. He was the son of Major General Palmer, President of the first Revolutionary Congress in Boston.

In the record of the Underhill Family we have seen that a connection with the Townsends was made by a daughter of Captain John Underhill marrying Henry Townsend. We now find in the records of the Long Island

* The name is usually spelled in England Townshend, in the U. S., Townsend.

Townsends that Malcom Townsend married Emma Virginia Cox, a descendant of Samuel Cox who married Anne Underhill, making a double connection.

The Townsends in the United States emigrated from Norfolk, England, from 1630 to 1635. They brought with them the zeal that had inspired their kinsmen to noble deeds against Spain in the latter part of the preceding century. They held indeed the most advanced sentiments of that day and sympathized with Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson and others, and were not in harmony with the persecuting spirits in the colony. Brooks Adams, in his Emancipation of Massachusetts, states that Roger Williams' controversy with the authorities was two-fold. He maintained that the land of the Indians should not be taken without purchase. The old Puritans held that the earth was the garden of the Lord, and peculiarly the heritage of the saints, that they were the saints, and wherever they saw land that was not fenced and waving with corn, they had a right to take it.

Roger Williams said, "Nay, no more than they had to go into a gentleman's park in England, and occupy a part of it." His views on church order were also obnoxious. He maintained that a Church should be composed of believers and that unconscious infants were not fit subjects. He was accordingly banished. In protest against religious persecution the Underhills and Townsends appear to have been in sympathy and stood together.

It is interesting to those holding liberal views to note the change of sentiment in Massachusetts as shown by the recent Legislature, which rescinded the obnoxious acts and passed another rehabilitating those who were banished. It is to the credit of the State to remove that stain upon its character, although futile to relieve the unfortunate victims of its persecution.

Are these memorial observances of distinguished family history of any interest and importance to the community at large? Certainly, very much so in the instruction and stimulus it gives to patriotic deeds. A community is made of individuals, and I need not say that the better the quality of the individual the more excellent and enduring are the institutions of the country.

These grand men are the foundation and framework on which the social and political fabric may securely rest. Coming down from generation to generation with a history of public virtue and private worth, a community may well feel favored to have with them such examples as guarantees of the stability of their institutions.

We find among the descendants of the Townsend family the name of Governor Alonzo B. Cornell of Ithaca, in the State of New York, a most valuable public spirited citizen —the son of Ezra Cornell, founder of Cornell University.

Publication Series No. 2, October, 1904.

C 571
.U65
1904

THE

Underhill and Townsend Families

A HISTORICAL SKETCH

BY

HON. ISAAC TOWNSEND SMITH.

Delivered at the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Underhill Society of America, held at Friends' Meeting House, East 20th Street, (Gramercy Park), Manhattan, N. Y. city, on Saturday, May 18th, 1901. being the 271st Anniversary of the arrival of Captain John Underhill in the ship "Mary & John," in Boston Harbor.

PUBLISHED BY THE

UNDERHILL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

400 SOUTH THIRD STREET, BROOKLYN, N. Y. CITY

PRICE 10 CENTS PER COPY

The bay of Massachusetts is a noble inlet of the sea. In heroic incident from an early period of our history it presents a brilliant and romantic chapter, unequalled in the annals of any other section of the Atlantic seaboard, and although a small part of the United States, it is a large and impressive factor in the history of the country. It was this magnificent expanse of water that gave the name of *Bay State* to Massachusetts.

Sheltered by the promontory of Cape Cod the first Pilgrim bark, the Mayflower, after a tempestuous voyage, found anchorage and shelter in a fair haven they called Provincetown, from whence, after repair to their shattered vessel, and exploring and examining the coast, they sailed across the bay, made a landing and settlement, which they called Plymouth.

On the northern side of the bay, at Cape Ann, stands a lighthouse, which, with another opposite at Cape Cod, like mighty gate-posts, Pillars of Hercules, are conspicuous

L. of C.

beacons by day and guides by night to ships outward bound, or inward to ports within the bay.

Fringed along its shores since the advent of the Mayflower, there have risen cities and towns of more or less interest and importance. Of such is Salem, which became eminent as a literary center and for its commercial activity during many years of its early history; and Gloucester, long famous for its fisheries; and Marblehead, with its secure harbor, into which the frigate Constitution ran, when in the War of 1812 she was chased by the British fleet; and Hingham, which was noted in its early days for its manufacture of buckets and brooms; and Lynn, celebrated for its shoes—"Everybody in Lynn," it was said, "made shoes except the Minister," "he made boots," went one better. But if you saw those places today, with their beautiful, costly residences, you would hardly suppose that "buckets and brooms" and "boots and shoes" had done it; and Newport and Swampscott, Nahant and Beverly, all have been engaged in commerce, and were also, with the other towns named, nurseries for seamen in the War of the Revolution and that of 1812.

And there, too, is Marshfield, memorable as the summer home in the lifetime, and now the resting place of the honored remains of Daniel Webster; and Plymouth, the settlement and home of the first company of one hundred Pilgrims, of whom one half died from their hardships and sufferings the first year, the most of them in one-fourth of that time, and when the ship went back in May, not one of the little band returned in her, they devotedly stood by each other. No man can read of the heroic devotion of this little band without supreme emotion. Rufus Choate, after visiting their burial-place, thus describes it:—

"It was on a bank somewhat elevated near and looking upon the waves, a symbol of what life had been to them, ascending inland and above the rock, symbol also of the 'Rock of Ages,' on which the dying had rested in the final hour; there were buried, the first Governor, and Rose, the wife of Miles Standish. 'You will go to them,' said Robinson, 'they cannot come to you'"

And at the head of the bay is the City of Boston. The golden dome of the State House, the stately edifices, steeples, pinnacles, parks and Common, proclaim it to be the capital of the grand old Bay State, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, built on three hills, Beacon Hill, Fort Hill and Copp's Hill, where I was born on March the twelfth, 1813. Opposite north, across Charles river, are Charlestown and the Navy Yard, and Bunker Hill with its monumental shaft pointing heavenward. The topography of the shore of the Bay is aptly described in the folk-lore of my boyhood days:

"Marblehead is a rocky place,
Cape Cod is all sandy.
Boston is a handsome place,
Yankee doodle dandy."

Very different from this picture of comfort and wealth of today, was the aspect to the weather-beaten Pilgrims, as they entered the bay on that bleak December day in 1620. There was neither lighthouse, beacon nor buoy to mark the channel and indicate the course to steer; it is a perilous undertaking even now, with a pilot and light ship, and one of their vessels, following the "Mayflower," was wrecked off Cape Cod. The vessel grounded on a sandy shoal, from which she could not be floated. The sand speedily washed about and over her. The passengers and crew, with cargo, were taken by boats to Provincetown, where the "Mayflower" had found shelter. This imprisoned ship, thus interred under the sand, hermetically sealed for about two hundred and fifty years, was, by the turn of the current of the ocean returning to its original channel, released from its long confinement. She came up sound as a nut to the astonishment of the people of Provincetown. After some battling with the billows, they succeeded in securing the hull entire by taking it apart, and bringing it to land. This vessel, a relic of the past, excited great interest. It was taken to Boston, put together for exhibition and set up on the Common, where I saw it, went aboard, and walked the deck where the old pilgrims had walked, and sat in the cabin of a vessel that had been, so to say, a consort of the "Mayflower."

Among those who came to Boston in the Pilgrim ships with Governor Winthrop was Captain John Underhill, on April 7th, 1630, under an agreement to train the militia of this new settlement and make plans for public protection. Captain John Underhill was to this Colony what Miles Standish was to Plymouth. Boston gave Captain John Underhill a pension for his services against the Indians in 1643. He left Boston and came to New York under convictions of duty.

Winthrop brought grave charges against Roger Williams. This Underhill could not brook, and was so incensed that, with others, he remonstrated with the authorities, and with Vane, a Puritan of the Puritans, warmly supported Mrs. Anne Hutchinson and her brother-in-law, the pious John Wheelwright, who arrived in 1634 from Atford, near Boston, England. Public sentiment is now emphatically with Captain Underhill, Roger Williams and Mrs. Anne Hutchinson, in their views of freedom of thought and speech on matters pertaining to church and state affairs. Whittier writes of Captain Underhill:—

He coveted not his neighbor's lands,
From the holding of bribes he shook his hands,
And through the camp of the heathen ran,
A wholesome fear of the valiant man.
He cheered his heart as he rode along,
With the sacred Scripture and holy song.

In my investigation of the genealogical record of the Underhill Family I find much to interest me.

Captain John Underhill, by his second wife, had five children, one of whom, a daughter Deborah, married Henry Townsend. My mother was a Townsend, by the branch of the family that settled in Massachusetts. All the American Townsends are allied, being descended from one stock, that of Admiral Roger Townsend, who went with his own ship into the fight aganist the Spanish Armada, and was knighted on board his ship for gallant and distinguished services.

I find the records still further interesting—that another daughter of Captain Underhill, Elizabeth, married Isaac Smith, of Hempstead, L. I., which brings my entire name, Isaac Townsend Smith into this family record. My branch of Smiths, also from England, settled in New Hampshire, "an excellent place to be born," Mr Webster, having been himself born there, said, " provided you leave it soon enough." My father left New Hampshire early in life, went to Boston, where he married Eliza Townsend. He became a prosperous merchant and left a good estate, and reared a family of six children, of whom I am the only survivor. I feel therefore, without studying up the pedigree further, that I am unmistakably in the Underhill Family, as a cousin certainly, although perhaps a distant one. I at one time invited a young Chinaman, a literary man, to dine with me; the following day he came promptly and brought with him another of his countrymen. They looked so much alike, with their almond shaped eyes, long black queues, yellow skin, and shoes shaped like a Chinese junk, that I said, "Your brother?" "No," said he; then I asked "Your cousin?" "Yes, yes," he replied, with a merry twinkle of the eye, "sixty-seventh." Within a radius of sixty seven, I may then venture to believe that I have a name and a place within the circle of the Underhill Family.

The Underhills are an old English family and were of standing and character long before heraldry was established in England. Heraldry was originated by Henry V. in 1419. But early as 1274 the name of William Underhill appears in a commission appointed by Henry III., and continued by Edward I., to inquire into the landed possessions of the kingdom. In 1500 we find Robert Winter conveying property in Huningham to John Underhill, on the river Trams, four miles from Kennelworth in Warwickshire. This John Underhill (son of Thomas) married Anne,

daughter of Robert Winter, an heiress, whose son Edward was grandfather to John Underhill of America. He went to London and was made a gentleman pensioner.

During the reign of Elizabeth the Underhills were in great prosperity and employed in confidential offices; they became connected with some of the best families, and attained the honors of knighthood. Sir Edward Underhill was knighted in January, 1612. He was High Sheriff 1637-38.

Many literary productions have emanated from the Underhill Family. Wm. Underhill was Secretary and one of Queen Mary's Board of Gentlemen Pensioners, who were chosen from the flower of England's nobility and gentry, and during the whole of Elizabeth's reign to serve in its ranks was a distinction worthy the ambition of young men of the highest families and most brilliant prospects. And all the way down the pages of history I find that Underhills filled the offices of Barons, Bishops, Queen's Chaplains, Magistrates, Secretaries, and other positions of honor and confidence.

Sir John Underhill was the friend and companion of Lord Leicester, and he was sent from Holland by Lord Leicester to Queen Elizabeth with confidential communications, with which it was said a romance was connected.

THE TOWNSEND FAMILY

The family of the Townsends being by intermarriage connected with the Underhills, the historic position of the Townsend Family is of interest in that connection, and to make the history complete.

Upon the conquest of England by the Normans in 1066, the lands were parcelled out by William to the military leaders by whose help he was victorious. A very large estate on the northwesterly part of the county of Norfolk, in the neighborhood now called Raynham (River Home), became the possession or one de Haville. In 1100 a gentleman by the name of Ludocishs (Louis) came from Normandy in the train of Henry I., and having married the daughter and only child of de Haville, settled upon his wife's paternal acres and adopted the family name of Townsend. These lands passed by inheritance to Townsend's children, and the family held them not only entire but largely augmented after the lapse of eight hundred years from the time they were granted to de Haville.

In 1183 the head of the house was a Baron of the Court of Common Pleas. In 1588, when the Spanish Armada threatened to annihilate Protestantism and the power of Elizabeth at one blow, Roger Townsend, the owner of the

estates, was a celebrated sailor, and with Drake and Hawkins brought his own ships into the service of his sovereign. He was knighted for his gallantry by the British Admiral Lord Howard.

In 1603 Robert Townsend was Knighted by King James I.

The Townsends have been one of the most distinguished families in English history, and have numbered in their ranks Secretaries of State, Lord Chief Justices, Members of Parliament, Lord Lieutenants of Ireland, and Peers of the Realm, and have been distinguished in the Army as Generals and Governors of forts ; in the Navy, besides the first naval hero Roger Townsend of Armada fame, there have been Admirals of the White and Admirals of the Blue. George Townsend took to a maritime life and distinguished himself in several actions during the war with France, 1724. As Commodore of a squadron of His Majesty's ships in the West Indies, he took a large fleet of French merchant ships; in 1765 he was appointed Admiral of the White and in 1766 Admiral of the Blue.

Augustus Townsend made several voyages to China as Supercargo and Captain in the service of the East India Company, in which situation he died at Batavia in the Island of Java about 1766. In the like manner, as Supercargo of a ship in those far off seas I went into Batavia in 1835, and like my kinsman Augustus Townsend was taken sick of fever and went to the hospital, but more fortunate than my predecessor and cousin, I recovered sufficiently to to be taken aboard my ship, then ready for sea, and on the voyage home regained my health.

John Townsend was elected to Parliament, and went with the Earl of Essex to the invasion of the Spanish possessions; in 1606 was knighted. He became a leading member of Parliament.

The next Sir Roger Townsend was created a Baronet by King James I., in 1617. In the third year of the reign of Charles I. he was elected one of the Knights of the County of Norfolk and Sheriff of the County. He built a grand stately mansion at Raynham, the family seat. He died in 1630, age 41.

Sir Horatio Townsend as soon as he was of age took part in public affairs, and attained great influence from his wisdom and sagacity. Lord Clarendon said that he used his noble wealth and credit in furnishing arms and ammunition for the King's service. Lord Willoughby and others of influence were drawn to his side, and King James II., in appreciation of his services, advanced him to the dignity of a Peer of the Realm by the title of Baron of Lynn in 1661, and shortly after constituted him Lord Lieutenant of the County of Norwich, and further advanced him to the title of

Viscount Townsend of Raynham. On his death in 1687, his son, second Viscount Charles Townsend, took his seat in the House of Peers, December 3rd, 1697, and in 1702 was constituted Lord Lieutenant of the City and County of Norfolk; and in 1709 with the Duke of Marlboro was appointed plenipotentiary to treat for peace with France. In 1714 he was sworn as principal Secretary of State; in 1716 he resigned the Seal of Secretary of State, and in 1718 was appointed Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, which he declined. In 1720 he was appointed President of the Council, and the same year one of the Lord Justices, and again made principal Secretary of State, and in 1723 one of the Lord Justices of Great Britain, and in 1724 appointed Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter and was installed at Windsor. He attended the King at Hanover, and peace being settled in Europe, he retired to his family seat at Norfolk.

Charles Townshend* married Caroline, sister of the Duke of Argyle. He was one of the most distinguished statesmen and orators England ever produced. Edmund Burke said of him—"He was the idol of the House of Commons and the ornament of every social circle which he honored with his presence." It was said that he could carry the house when Burke failed to move it.

In direct descent from this Charles Townshend and Caroline of Argyle his wife is the present Marquis Townshend, who is first cousin to Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Fife, the daughter of King Edward VII.

The Marquisate of Townshend is one of the most ancient as well as the most distinguished in England.

The first marquisate was that of Westminister, created about the year 1500 That of Lansdowne was the second, and that of Townshend the third, so that the present Peer takes precedence of all the others except the two mentioned.

In connection with our own history, it is a curious fact that the Charles Townshend who as Chancellor of the Exchequer advocated the passage of the stamp act and the tax on tea, was on my side the tory ancestor of my children, while on the side of their mother (Elizabeth Palmer Putnam) their great grandfather was the patriot Major Joseph Pierce Palmer who, as one of the leaders of the famous Boston Tea Party, threw the shipload of taxed tea overboard in Boston Harbor December 16, 1773. He was the son of Major General Palmer, President of the first Revolutionary Congress in Boston.

In the record of the Underhill Family we have seen that a connection with the Townsends was made by a daughter of Captain John Underhill marrying Henry Townsend. We now find in the records of the Long Island

* The name is usually spelled in England Townshend, in the U. S., Townsend.

Townsends that Malcom Townsend married Emma Virginia Cox, a descendant of Samuel Cox who married Anne Underhill, making a double connection.

The Townsends in the United States emigrated from Norfolk, England, from 1630 to 1635. They brought with them the zeal that had inspired their kinsmen to noble deeds against Spain in the latter part of the preceding century. They held indeed the most advanced sentiments of that day and sympathized with Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson and others, and were not in harmony with the persecuting spirits in the colony. Brooks Adams, in his Emancipation of Massachusetts, states that Roger Williams' controversy with the authorities was two-fold. He maintained that the land of the Indians should not be taken without purchase. The old Puritans held that the earth was the garden of the Lord, and peculiarly the heritage of the saints, that they were the saints, and wherever they saw land that was not fenced and waving with corn, they had a right to take it.

Roger Williams said, "Nay, no more than they had to go into a gentleman's park in England, and occupy a part of it." His views on church order were also obnoxious. He maintained that a Church should be composed of believers and that unconscious infants were not fit subjects. He was accordingly banished. In protest against religious persecution the Underhills and Townsends appear to have been in sympathy and stood together.

It is interesting to those holding liberal views to note the change of sentiment in Massachusetts as shown by the recent Legislature, which rescinded the obnoxious acts and passed another rehabilitating those who were banished. It is to the credit of the State to remove that stain upon its character, although futile to relieve the unfortunate victims of its persecution.

Are these memorial observances of distinguished family history of any interest and importance to the community at large? Certainly, very much so in the instruction and stimulus it gives to patriotic deeds. A community is made of individuals, and I need not say that the better the quality of the individual the more excellent and enduring are the institutions of the country.

These grand men are the foundation and framework on which the social and political fabric may securely rest. Coming down from generation to generation with a history of public virtue and private worth, a community may well feel favored to have with them such examples as guarantees of the stability of their institutions.

We find among the descendants of the Townsend family the name of Governor Alonzo B. Cornell of Ithaca, in the State of New York, a most valuable public spirited citizen —the son of Ezra Cornell, founder of Cornell University.

LB Ap '05
3477-53-1
Rot 45

DEC 77
BOUND BY
HNM

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
0 009 843 284 A